

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/624,614

Applicant(s)

LU, ZIYANG

Examiner

Art Unit

Patrick J. Assouad

2857

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to filing on 7/21/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 21 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

PATRICK ASSOUD
PRIMARY EXAMINER

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the closest prior art of record is Farmer et al.(US 6,715,093 B1 and 2004/0158760 A1) and Turnquist (US 6,557,128 B1).

However,

as per independent claims 1 and 10, the prior art of record does not suggest or disclose the claimed combination of method steps or computer-executable steps (software on a computer readable medium), most particularly, the claimed:

if the cycle duration of the virtual tester time domain is equal to the cycle duration of one of the multiple device time domains, translating the test data for each device time domain other than said one time domain to the virtual tester time domain and otherwise translating the test data for each device time domain to the virtual tester time domain

and,

as per independent claims 5 and 7, the prior art of record does not suggest or disclose the claimed combination of system elements, most particularly the claimed:

a second means for receiving the primary test data for a physical tester domain other than the selected complex domain, mapping time of occurrence of an event in said physical test domain to a corresponding time in the selected complex domain, and generating secondary test data for said physical tester domain wherein the time of occurrence of said event is specified by reference to a cycle boundary of the selected complex time domain, and
a third means responsive to a master clock signal at a predetermined frequency for transforming the secondary test data into a format that is compatible with the synchronous virtual tester interface.

Art Unit: 2857

and,

as per independent claims 8 and 11, the prior art of record does not suggest or disclose the claimed combination of method steps or computer executable steps (software on a computer readable medium), most particularly the claimed:

for a given virtual cycle and a given digital pin for which the number of force events is less than said highest number of force events, populating the data structure with at least one value that defines a valid force event at the given digital pin in the given virtual cycle and at least one value that does not define a valid force event at the given digital pin in the given virtual cycle,

for a given virtual cycle and a given digital pin for which the number of compare events is less than said highest number of compare events, populating the data structure with at least one value that defines a valid compare event at the given digital pin in the given virtual cycle and at least one value that does not define a valid compare event at the given digital pin in the given virtual cycle.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick J. Assouad whose telephone number is 571-272-2210. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday, 6:30am-5:00pm.

Art Unit: 2857

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc Hoff can be reached on 571-272-2216. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick J. Assouad', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patrick J Assouad
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2857

pja